Appl. No. 09/775,891 Amendment dated December 8, 2003 Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for repairing a femur comprising in combination:

(A) a connector having a superior end and an inferior end, at least a lateral side, a medial side opposite the lateral side, an anterior, and a posterior side opposing the

anterior side;

(B) at least one claw at the superior end, the at least one claw having at least one extension or hook, the at least one extension or hook having at least one tooth

adapted to impact into a bone of a body;

(C) at least one cable aperture or surface groove along the connector extending from

one side to another side of the connector; and

(D) at least one bone screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to

the medial side.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the superior end has a first

transition portion that is detachable from a second transition portion of the inferior end.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the inferior end is

bowed or rotated to more properly align with a bone of a body.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the connector

includes a transition portion between the inferior end and the superior end to allow bending of

the connector to more properly align with a bone of a body.

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Claim 5 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bone screw slot is located along the inferior end.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bone screw slot is a compression-type slot.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

(E) at least one bone screw engageable within the bone screw slot and within a bone of a body.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the bone screw slot is configured to angle a bone screw when it is inserted into the bone screw slot to avoid a prosthesis in a body.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the superior end includes a cable aperture.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the cable aperture is angled or on a curved path relative to the anterior and posterior sides of the superior end.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

(E) a cable insertable within the cable aperture.

Claim 12 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

(E) at least one cable screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to the cable aperture.



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Claim 13 (original): The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising:

(F) at least one cable screw each engageable within the respective cable screw slot and capable of crimping a cable within the cable aperture.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

(E) a driver slot along the lateral side of the superior end.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:

(F) a driver engageable with the driver slot.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An apparatus for repairing a hip comprising in combination:

- (A) a connector having a superior end and an inferior end, a lateral side, a medial side opposite the lateral side, an anterior side, and a posterior side opposing the anterior side;
- (B) at least one cable aperture along the connector:
- (C) at least one cable aperture or surface groove along the superior end; and
- (D) at least one claw member at the superior end, the at least one claw member having at least one extension or hook, the at least one extension or hook having at least one tooth adapted to impact into a bone of a body.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the superior end has a first transition portion that is detachable from a second transition portion of the inferior end.

Claim 18 (withdrawn)



Claim 19 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the inferior end is bowed or rotated to more properly align with a bone of a body.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the connector includes a transition portion between the inferior end and the superior end to allow bending of the connector to more properly align with a bone of a body.

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

(D) at least one bone screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to the medial side.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the bone screw slot is located along the inferior end.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the bone screw slot is a compression-type slot.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

(E) at least one bone screw engageable within the bone screw slot and within a bone of a body.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the bone screw slot is configured to angle a bone screw when it is inserted into the bone screw slot to avoid a prosthesis in a body.



Claim 26 (original): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the cable aperture is angled relative to a lateral side of the superior end.

Claim 27 (original): The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:

(D) a cable insertable within the cable aperture.

Claim 28 (original): The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:

(D) at least one cable screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to the cable aperture.

Claim 29 (original): The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

(E) at least one cable screw engageable within the cable screw slot and capable of crimping a cable within the cable aperture.

Claim 30 (original): The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising:

(D) a driver slot along the lateral side of the superior end.

Claim 31 (original): The apparatus of claim 30 further comprising:

(E) a driver engageable with the driver slot.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A system for repairing a femur comprising in combination:

- (A) a connector having a superior end and an inferior end, a lateral side, a medial side opposite the lateral side, an anterior side and a posterior side opposite the anterior side;
- (B) a driver slot along the lateral side of the superior end;



- (C) a transition portion in the connector between the inferior end and the superior end to allow bending of the connector to properly align with a bone of a body;
- (D) at least one cable aperture extending through opposing sides of the superior end;
- (E) at least one cable aperture along the connector extending between the anterior and posterior sides of the connector;
- (F) at least one cable screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to the cable aperture;
- (G) at least one bone screw slot along the inferior end of the connector extending from the lateral side to the medial side;
- (H) a claw member at the superior end, the claw member having at least one extension or hook, the at least one extension or hook having at least one tooth adapted to impact into a bone of a body.

Claim 33 (original): The system of claim 32, wherein the superior end has a first transition portion that is detachable from a second transition portion of the inferior end.

Claim 34 (withdrawn)

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 32 wherein the inferior end of the connector is bowed to more properly align with a bone of a body.

Claims 36-37 (withdrawn)

Claim 38 (currently amended): A connector for repairing a femur comprising in combination:



- (A) a superior end having a first portion;
- (B) an inferior end having a second portion that is detachably mated to the first portion of the superior end, the inferior end having at least a lateral side, a medial side opposite the lateral side, an anterior, and a posterior side opposing the anterior side; and
- (C) at least one claw at the superior end, the at least one claw having at least one extension or hook, the at least one extension or hook having at least one tooth adapted to impact into a bone of a body.

Claim 39 (original): The connector of claim 38, further comprising:

(D) at least one cable aperture or surface groove along the connector extending from one side to another side of the connector.

Claim 40 (original): The connector of claim 39, further comprising:

(E) at least one bone screw slot along the connector extending from the lateral side to the medial side.

Claim 41 (original): The connector of claim 39 wherein the inferior end and the superior end are mated by at least one screw.

Claim 42 (new): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one claw is adapted for use in the presence of an artificial hip implant.

Claim 43 (new): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the at least one claw member is adapted for use in the presence of an artificial hip implant.



Claim 44 (new): The system of claim 32 wherein the claw member is adapted for use in the presence of an artificial hip implant.

Claim 45 (new): The connector of claim 38 wherein the at least one claw is adapted for use in the presence of an artificial hip implant.

Claim 46 (new): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the apparatus is adapted to simultaneously repair a periprosthetic fracture of the femur and a fracture of a greater trochanter.

Claim 47 (new): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the apparatus is adapted to simultaneously repair a periprosthetic fracture of the femur and a fracture of a greater trochanter.

Claim 48 (new): The system of claim 32 wherein the system is adapted to simultaneously repair a periprosthetic fracture of the femur and a fracture of a greater trochanter.

Claim 49 (new): The connector of claim 38 wherein the connector is adapted to simultaneously repair a periprosthetic fracture of the femur and a fracture of a greater trochanter.